

## Mission accomplished — but continuing

You can tell that we are rapidly coming to the close of our mission Y in Kosovo.

You can tell by the long lines in the DFAC, a shortage of black foot lockers at the post exchange, new soldiers stopping you to ask directions and of course the huge smiles on a lot of faces.

Just six months ago we arrived here as Task Force Falcon. Multi-National Brigade (East) was really just a name, not the unified organization it is today.

In just six short months, a dramatic change has occurred in MNB(E). People from a variety of services and nations have learned to function as one seamless unit. (That experience will be valuable to everyone who served here — joint and combined is the way we operate now.)

The evolution of this brigade has a lot to do with the hard work and training that has taken place with our multi-national partners here in Kosovo. This partnership has led to the strong, well-integrated organization we proudly call MNB(E).

As rotation 4A draws to an end, I would like to use my final column in Guardian East magazine to highlight some of our achievements during this deployment.

To be honest, we have set standards and reached goals in training that will be hard for future rotations to match – and we did so without sacrificing the safety of our soldiers.

I would like to recognize all of the great leaders and soldiers of MNB(E) for their dedication to duty. An organization is only as good as its members, and the members of MNB(E) are a class act

In addition, the families of soldiers need to be recognized for their sacrifices. Without a strong and supportive family, a soldier cannot deploy and remain focused on the mission. So to all the families I say thank you. The support given to soldiers in this province has allowed us to improve on an already safe and secure environment.



By Command Sgt. Major Ralph Beam

The efforts of MNB(E) soldiers have improved the lives of the people we have been charged to protect.

As the soldiers of 4A hand the mission over to their 4B counterparts, there will be no lapse in our performance or dedication to this mission. The people of Kosovo will see new faces but the same Big Red One patch, and the same cohesive, unified force that has kept the peace so well for the past half-year.

It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve with all of you.

**Duty First!** 

Beam is command sergeant major of Multi-National Brigade (East).

#### On the cover:

Pfc. Brian Phillips of Company B, 54th Engineer Battalion, stands outside the Klokot church at sunset Sept. 24.

#### SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil

#### Guardian East

Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute Maj. Gordon Cooper COMMANDING GENERAL, MNB(E)

Maj. Mark Ballesteros AFFAIRS OFFICER, MNB(E)

Maj. Shawn Jirik C AFFAIRS LIAISON OFFICER, KFOR, 302ND MPAD

COMMANDER, 302ND MPAD

Capt. Dave Domingo EXECUTIVE OFFICER, 302ND MPAD

1st Lt. Dave Williams CAMP MONTEITH TEAM OIC

Master Sgt. Mark Van Leer

DETACHMENT SERGEANT

Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson SENIOR PRINT JOURNALIST

Sqt. Jim Blaine CAMP MONTEITH TEAM NCOIC

Sqt. Keren Olson BROADCAST NCOIC

Spc. Kate McIsaac

**FDITOR** 

Spc. Patrick Rodriguez ASSISTANT EDITOR

Spc. Jasmine Chopra Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb Tony Velkov

PRINT JOURNALISTS

Sat. Lovedy Zie

Spc. Lisa Forbes

Spc. Paul Dayes Spc. Sandra Mercado BROADCAST JOURNALISTS

Spc. Brandon Guevara ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST



#### About Guardian East

Guardian East is an official publication of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) whose intent is to provide command information to servicemembers.

Guardian East is produced by the 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve.

Contents of Guardian East are not necessarily official views, nor endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army or the 1st Infantry Division.

Guardian East is published weekly using offset press by the MNB(E) Public Affairs Ofice, Building 1320, Camp Bondsteel. Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged. Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APOAE 09340; send e-mail to guardianeast@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil. Printed Circulation: 3,000.

#### **CHANGING HANDS**



KFOR Commander Lt. Gen. Marcel Valentin passes the KFOR colors to incoming Multi-National Brigade (East) commander Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute as outgoing Commander Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber looks on in a ceremony May 21 at Camp Bondsteel.

Soldiers from Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States stood proud May 21 as Brig Gen. Douglas E. Lute received the MNB(E) colors from Brig. Gen. Keith Huber in the 'clamshell' hangar on Camp Bondsteel. Lt. Gen Marcel Valentin, then commander of KFOR, presided over the ceremony, and Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova attended. Elements of the 1st Infantry Division, based in Germany, assumed the MNB(E) mission from elements of the 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y.

#### SAFE & SECURE



Photo by Maj. Gordon Coope

Above: Soldiers from the 501st Mechanized Battalion (Greece) conduct a search during Operation Iron Fist V near Urosevac. Right: Staff Sgt. John Ciurana and Rocky, a 9-year-old Belgian Malinois, search for contraband on a cargo truck.

Multi-National Brigade (East) and supporting elements from other multi-national brigades conducted several synchronized operations in the MNB(E) area of responsibility to disrupt activities that threatened safety and security in Kosovo. In June, during Operation Iron Fist V, weapons, ammunition and other illegal items were seized during checkpoint and cordon-and-search missions in the Urosevac area.



Photo by Maj. Gordon Cooper

#### ENTERTAINMENT/MWR



Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Sgt. Brent Adams of Task Force 1-77 Armor shows musician Toby Keith how to drive a tank during his visit to Kosovo.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation maintained a steady supply of entertainment and festive events for members of Multi-National Brigade (East). Country music star Toby Keith showed patriotic spirit during a concert tour of the Balkans May 25-27 that included elaborate shows at Camp Able Sentry and Camp Bondsteel and an informal 'unplugged' performance from the ramp of a CH-47 Chinook utility helicopter for soldiers at Camp Rock.

### STRENGTHENING KOSOVO



Photo by Spc. Kate McIsaac

**Above:** Second Lt. Rafael Cohen, a physician's assistant in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, cleans up a cut for a boy during the medical civilian assistance program in September. A local doctor and a Greek doctor worked together to provide acute medical care. **Right:** Spc. Kristi Toczylowski of the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion delivers 10 boxes of English books to an Urosevac library May 15.



Photo by Spc. Kate McIsaa

#### RAPID RESPONSE

Operational rehearsals demonstrated NATO forces' ability to quickly reinforce with units from a variety of nations and services.

Rapid Guardian 02-3, in July and August, involved soldiers of the U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade based in Italy, a company of U.S. Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., and an armor-heavy task force from the U.S. 1st Armored Division based in Germany. In addition, the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop operated with German soldiers in Multi-National Brigade (South), while a company from MNB(S) and a United Kingdom company from Multi-National Brigade (Center) reinforced MNB(E).

Dynamic Response 02, in September and October, involved elements of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and units from the Italian San Marco Regiment. The forces reinforced MNB(S) and Multi-National Brigade (West) but used Camp Bondsteel as a base for aviation missions.

Right: Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, based in Vicenza, Italy, drop into cornfields west of Vitina July 11. The airborne operation marked the beginning of Rapid Guardian 02-3. Once on the ground, the paratroopers reinforced Task Force 1-18 Infantry to conduct peace support operations near Kosovo's border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. **Below:** Marines from the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron, part of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), conduct post flight procedures on four CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters Sept. 16 on the airfield at Camp Bondsteel. The MEU team was in Kosovo for a month, augmenting the peacekeeping mission in Dynamic Response 02. The operational rehearsal demonstrated KFOR's ability to rapidly deploy troops to the region.





Photo by Sgt. Keren Olson

#### FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

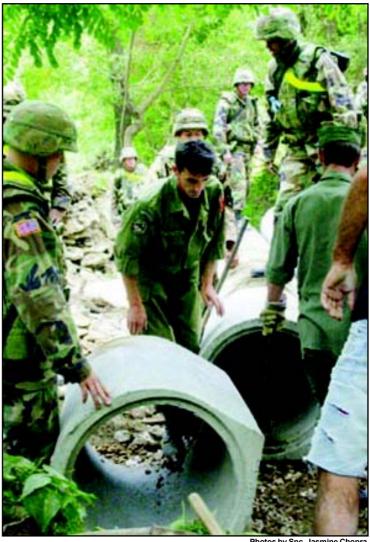
Progress in safety and security resulted in increased freedom of movement for residents of Kosovo. So did two major construction projects involving Multi-National Brigade (East) soldiers and members of the Kosovo Protection Corps.

Residents of the Strpce area benefited from a road project that enhanced KFOR's ability to conduct mounted operations in that region. Task Force 9th Engineer provided quality control as contractors made much-needed improvements to Route Lion, the main road connecting Strpce with the rest of Kosovo.

In addition, soldiers of Task Force 9th Engineer and members of KPC worked together on a bypass to ensure freedom of movement during the project. The Route Lion project was completed June 25.

**Right:** Members of the 30th Engineer Group, Kosovo Protection Corps, and soldiers of Company A, 94th Engineer Battalion, work together on a culvert near Strpce. **Below:** Ahmet Bajrimi, left, of the 30th TMK Headquarters Engineer Group and Pfc. Chris Gambell of Task Force 9th Engineer cut the ribbon marking the completion of the Route Lion bypass in a ceremony June 25.





Photos by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

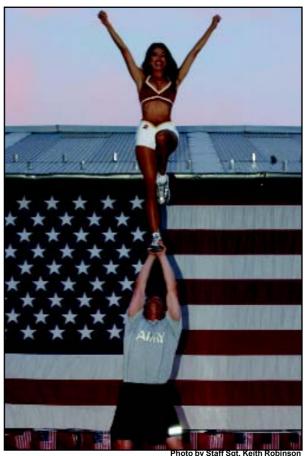
# AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

**Above:** MNB(E) Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam, KFOR Commander Lt. Gen. Marcel Valentin and MNB(E) Commander Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute participate in an American tradition — the wave — during a Fourth of July celebration at Camp Bondsteel.

**Right:** Spc. Tim Waters, a health care specialist in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, gives a Washington Redskins Cheerleader a lift during a performance the week of Independence Day.



www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil

#### EXPLOSIONS SHAKE KLOKOT





Above: Djordje Kostic, a resident of Klokot, sits amid rubble after an improvised bomb destroyed his home July 31. Left: Task Force 1-18 Infantry Command Sgt. Maj. John Calpena stands at the site of an explosion in Klokot that left Sgt. Jerry Burge and Sgt. Dominic Higgins injured.

A series of explosions rocked the village of Klokot early July 31.

Soldiers of TF 1-18 responded immediately, investigating the explosion sites and looking for residents in need of help. Sgt. Dominic Higgins and Sgt. Jerry Burge, both of Company B, 54th Engineer Battalion, part of TF 1-18 Infantry, were injured by one of the explosions.

The search for the perpetrators of the bombing was accelerated with the formation of the Joint Investigative Task Force, which included KFOR military polide and members of UNMIK-Police and Kosovo Police Service. A telephone hotline for reporting information about the bombings also was established.

#### **Heroes**

Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, pins a Purple Heart on the chest of Sgt. Jerry Burge Aug. 1 at the medical facility on Camp Bondsteel. Meigs presented Sgt. Dominic Higgins, far right, with a Purple Heart in the same ceremony. Higgins and Burge, both of Company B, 54th Engineer Battalion, were injured by an explosion in Klokot while moving toward the site of an earlier explosion to look for a victim. The soldiers are part of Task Force 1-18 Infantry, based at Camp Magrath.





www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil November 13, 2002

### THE RIGHT TO RETURN



Photos by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

**Above:** Stevan Ristic, an internally displaced person, mourns after seeing what is left of his home and belongings outside Urosevac on a property visit facilitated by Greek and U.S. soldiers in Multi-National Brigade (East). **Right:** Sevdalinka Vtljrovic, an IDP, points out what remains of her home in Urosevac to Col. Michael Hoffpauir, MNB(E) deputy commander for civilmilitary operations, during a property visit. **Below:** Denic Slavisa, an IDP, returns to the Albanian village of Donje Nerodimlje to find his house in ruins.

Soldiers of the 501st Mechanized Battalion (Greece) supported dozens of property visits in the Urosevac area throughout KFOR rotation 4A. IDPs — residents who had been forced to move from their homes to other parts of Yugoslavia during the war — received help from KFOR and a variety of agencies and organizations as they checked the condition of their property in order to make informed decisions on exercising the right to return to their homes.



Photos by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

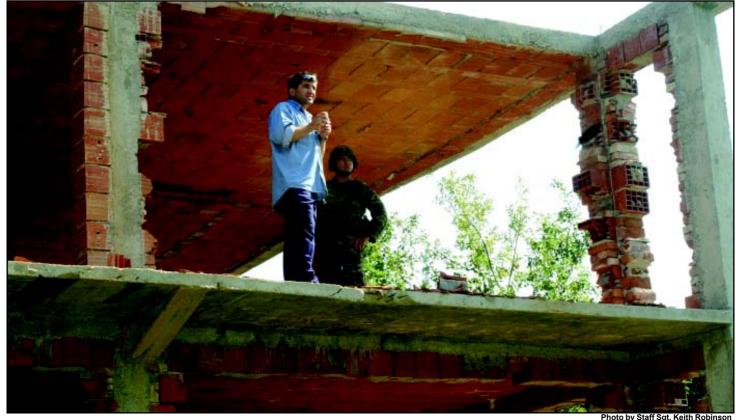
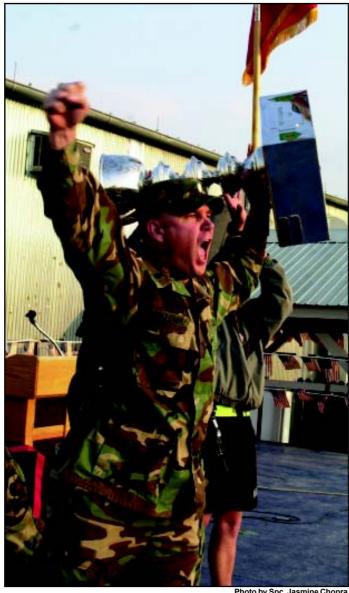


Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil

#### SPORTS DAYS



Above: Victory is sweet as Lt. Col. Gerald Galloway, commander of Task Force 1-7 Field Artillery, raises the championship trophy after winning the second Bondsteel Cup event in September.





Photos by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Left: Task Force 9th Engineer commander Lt. Col. Nathanial Idlet, left. and Command Sgt. Maj. John H. Rather celebrate their win in October. Right: Task Force 1-26 Infantry won the rotation's first Bondsteel Cup in July.

In the spirit of camaraderie and healthy competition, commanding general Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute encouraged soldiers in Multi-National Brigade (East) to compete in several sports days during the rotation. Soldiers from 18 battalions, representing all of MNB(E), participated in the daylong events, which inspired friendly battles and spirited competition.

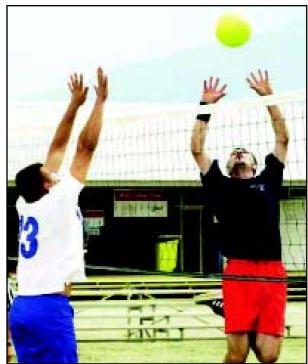


Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Members of the Polish-Ukranian Battalion march up Radar Hill in the early morning hours of the third and final Bondsteel Cup competition in October. Task Force 9th Engineer was the overall winner of the day's events.



Soldiers from Task Force 1-26 Infantry give it their all in a stretcher race during the first Sports Day in July. Task Force 1-26 Infantry took home the trophy that day.



A Russian soldier in 2nd Battalion, 13th Tactical Group, and a player from Team Cappuccino Bar battle in the sand at Camp Bondsteel in July.

Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

#### STAYING SHARP



Chief Warrant Officer Michael Rundell, a pilot in 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, watches Spur Ride candidates participate in call-for-fire procedures while in full nuclear, biological and chemical mission posture.

Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra



Multi-National Brigade (East) soldiers rose to the challenge of maintaining warfighting skills through training while conducting real-world peace support operations.

New live-fire ranges and mobile conduct-of-fire trainers enhanced maneuver training. Soldiers also had the opportunity to prove their mettle through Expert Field Medical Badge and Expert Infantryman badge testing, Engineer Qualification Tables and the Cavalry tradition known as the Spur Ride.

Spc. Paul J. Miller of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, performs the high crawl through the 'move under direct fire' lane Sept. 24 at Camp Monteith during Expert Infantryman Badge testing.

Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

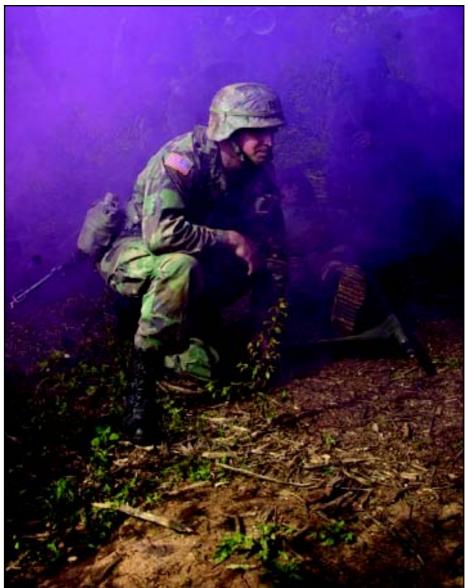




Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Above: Spc. Nathan R. Clark, left, and Spc. Jeffery M. Herling, both of Company B, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, conduct military operations on urbanized terrain training at Falcon 4 range near Camp Bondsteel Aug. 24.

Photo by Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb

Left: Capt. Ken Koyle, Multi-National Brigade (East) medical plans officer, carries a mock casualty litter at the litter obstacle course while testing for the Expert Field Medical Badge in August. For the first time in Kosovo, medical personnel had the opportunity to earn the EFMB. Of 131 candidates, 25 earned the badge. Koyle was a distinguished honor graduate in the training and testing.



Spc. Wesley C. Miller and Spc. Charles Price, both tactical truck drivers in Company C, 9th Engineer Battalion, cut concertina wire during Engineer Qualification Tables in September. The wire was used to block off a tank ditch reinforced with cratering charges.

Photo by Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb





Photo by Spc. Kate McIsaa

Kiowa crewmembers in E Troop, 1st Squardon, 4th Cavalry, part of Task Force 2-1 Aviation, finish repairing a hydraulic problem on an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter at Camp Bondsteel.

#### Task Force 2-1 Aviation







# **T**ASK **FORCE MEDICAL FALCON**

Soldiers from Task Force Medical Falcon participate in an expert field medical badge exercise Aug. 21 - 26 at Camp Bondsteel. The event tested the knowledge and physical endurance of soldiers in the medical field.

Photo by Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb





"First to Cross"

# TASK FORCE 9TH ENGINEER **B**ATTALION

Staff Sgt. Robert Hood, an explosive ordnance disposal noncommissioned officer in charge in the 737th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, part of Task Force 9th Engineer Battalion, takes an x-ray picture of a bomb used for training purposes during a force protection exercise on Aug. 30 at Camp Bondsteel.

Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra



"Vanguards"

# **TASK FORCE** 1-18

#### **INFANTRY**

Sgt. Harvey Blake of Company C, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, leads his squad on a reconnaissance patrol from Camp Magrath to Vitina. The patrols are part of the effort to maintain a safe and secure environment in





"Warriors"

While on a reconnaissance patrol, Spc. Justin Durham, a military police specialist in the 630th Military Police Company, part of Task Force 709th Military Police, helps two little girls onto a sidewalk. Durham saw the older girl pushing her baby sister in a stroller along a busy street. He stopped and pulled the girls out of the traffic.

#### Task Force 709th Military Police



Spc. Matthew Perkins of the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion chats with curious children in Kacanik.



"Always Forward"





Spc. Adam Tristan, a transmission systems operator in Company A, 121st Signal Battalion, begins removing the communication systems from Camp Klokot Aug. 16. Communication systems and services are now provided by civilian commercial services.

**SIGNAL** 

"Danger's Voice" **121st** 







# POLISHUKRAINIAN BATTALION

Soldiers from the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion conduct common task training by rehearsing a challenge-andpassword scenario at Camp White Eagle.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson



Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Spc. Geegee Image, a psychological operations specialist in the 304th Psychological Operations Company, co-hosts the weekly 'Big Show,' a KFORsponsored program on the Radio Tema.

304TH
PSYCHOLOGICAL
OPERATIONS
COMPANY

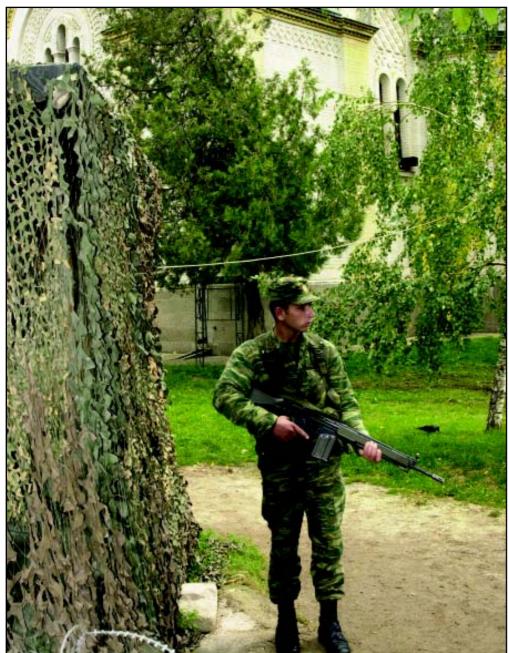


Photo by Maj. Gordon Cooper

Spc. Lisa Forbes, a broadcast journalist and Webmaster in the 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, shoots videotape outside Klokot.

302ND MOBILE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DETACHMENT





A soldier from the 501st Mechanized Battalion (Greece), stationed at the pipe factory in Urosevac, stands guard at a church in the center of town. Greek soldiers stationed at the pipe factory are responsible for guarding churches and outposts within the city. In addition, the soldiers conduct mounted and dismounted patrols in Urosevac

# **501st Mechanized B**ATTALION (GREECE)

Photo by Staff Sqt. Keith Robinson

#### TASK FORCE CAS





Above: Staff Sgt. Randy Walker, left, of the Camp Able Sentry aid station talks to Sgt. 1st Class James Williams, detachment sergeant, Sept. 24.

Left: Team leader Sgt. Michael Conner, gunner Spc. Sergio Cuevas and driver Spc. Kyle Vickery, all of Battery B, 1st Battalion 33rd Field Artillery Regiment, prepare for a mission Sept. 24 at Camp Able Sentry.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

**Above:** Medics from the 13th Tactical Group (Russia) train Multi-National partners on Medical Evacuation techniques in July. The training served to both improve emergency medical response, but it also proved to be an exercise in Multi-National cooperation.

# 13TH TACTICAL GROUP (RUSSIA)





# 415TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION

*Left:* Capt. Khristopher Scarcliff, a team commander in the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, holds Lirim Bershia. Lirim has a cleft lip and palate, the 415th CA Bn. is assisting to arrange an operation in the U.S. to correct his condition.

Photo by Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb





Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment — Blue Spaders — execute a live-fire exercise in coordination with Bradley Fighting Vehicles providing cover fire at the Falcon 4 range. This iteration was the final run in a seven-day combined arms live-fire exercise.

#### Task Force 1-26 Infantry





"First Lightning"



# **TASK FORCE 1-7 FIELD** ARTILLERY

Spc. James H. Sarver, a howitzer driver in Battery B, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, maneuvers a M109A6 Paladin into position during a combined live fire exercise with soldiers from Task Force 1-26 Infantry at Falcon 4 range from the top of Radar Hill at Camp Bondsteel, Aug. 24.



Photo by Spc. Kate McIsaac

#### **299TH LOGISTICS TASK FORCE**

"On call to serve"



**Below:** Spc. Kevin Maul, a mechanic in Company B, 299th Logistics Task Force, installs a new electrical harness and glow plugs on an M1031 truck Oct. 14 at the task force motor pool at Camp Bondsteel. **Right:** Soldiers in the 299th LTF sling-load a Humvee to a Marine CH-53E cargo helicopter piloted by members of the 263rd Helicopter Medium Marine Squadron during a sling-load training exercise.







### Task Force 1-77 Armor

Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

From left, Spc. James Lambrecht, Spc. Jason Mitchell, Sgt. 1st Class Todd Simms and Spc. Paul Miller, all of Mortar Platoon, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, line up to be evaluated on performing individual camouflage during their training for the Expert Infantryman Badge.

"Steel Tigers"



#### **HEADQUARTERS**

#### Multi-National Brigade (East)

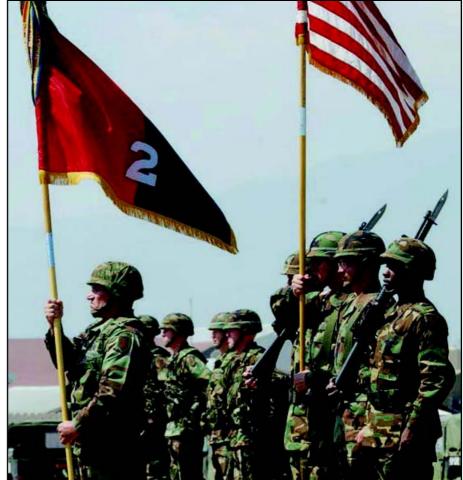


"Duty First"





*Top:* Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute, Multi-National Brigade (East) commander, consults with his chief of staff, Col. Albert Johnson, aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk utility helicopter. *Above:* Col. Randal A. Dragon, left, the Multi-National Brigade (East) deputy commander for manuever, meets with Col. Sergei Ziora, commander of 13th Tactical Group (Russia), in Kamenica. *Right:* MNB(E) Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Beam holds the brigade colors during 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, change of command ceremony at Camp Bondsteel.



#### BEHIND THE LINES

What have we accomplished?

Most of the U.S. elements of Multi-National Brigade (East) are about to complete their six-month tour of duty in Kosovo and hand off to other soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division – the Big Red One. This is a good time to assess our progress, both within our sector and within our brigade.

We recognized at the outset of this mission that, while we could not expect to change the very nature of Kosovo during our tour, we could make substantial improvements in our region. There are many signs that the situation has improved over the past six months. The number of violent incidents is the lowest since the end of the war in 1999 and about half of what it was even in the summer of 2001. The local police force, the Kosovo Police Service, continues to mature with the first-ever sergeants and lieutenants being named this summer. There are very positive indicators that many people in this region are beginning to accept or at least tolerate others of different ethnicities. In our area, there are now multi-ethnic clinics, boy scout troops, sports competitions, health clinics and even police patrols. The recent local elections resulted in Kosovar-Serb majorities in two of our seven municipalities. Our region leads all of Kosovo in returns of refugees and displaced persons of all ethnicities.

All these small steps toward a peaceful, democratic Kosovo depend on a generally safe and secure environment, and that is exactly what we have provided. So there has been progress, and all of us in MNB(E) should be proud of our contributions.

On the other hand, there remains much to be done by our successors. In order to make them as successful as they can be and to sustain our progress, we must have a smooth, efficient handover of the mission. I like to say that this mission is like a long-distance relay race. Every leg of the race – every rotation of troops – is a marathon, not a sprint, and features its unique challenges. And every leg ends with the critical passing of the baton to those running the next leg. We have run a successful marathon and are now at the baton-passing phase. We must pass the baton smoothly to accomplish our mission. Our leg is nearly complete, but the race continues.

We should also be very proud of our achievements within the brigade. We have forged a cohesive multi-national team from six nations, all focused on one mission. We have enhanced our partnerships with the international players critical to our mission: UNMIK, OSCE, UNHCR, CIVPOL, KPS and others. We have trained hard while accomplishing our peace operations tasks. We ran the first-ever EFMB and EIB training in Kosovo with 25



By Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute

soldiers winning the EFMB and 230 the EIB. Soldiers have earned thousands of college credit hours. Many have reenlisted, accumulating more than \$2 million in bonuses. We have conducted innovative combined-arms live-fire training, setting the stage for our return to full warfighting readiness. We achieved all this by operating with discipline, initiative and patience – reaffirming that these qualities are the keys to success in peace

As your commander, I am exceptionally proud of what we have achieved, both within our sector and within our brigade. I want to thank every soldier and every leader for his or her contribution to this overall record. This deployment will long serve as an example of what can be accomplished when we take seriously our division's motto: No mission too difficult. No sacrifice too great. Duty First!

Lute is commanding general of Multi-National Brigade (East).

On the cover: Photo by Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb

Sgt. Christina Campbell of Task Force Medical Falcon applies camouflage during Expert Field Medical Badge testing.

#### SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil

#### Guardian East

Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute Maj. Gordon Cooper COMMANDING GENERAL, MNB(E)

Maj. Mark Ballesteros CAFFAIRS OFFICER, MNB(E)

Mai. Shawn Jirik KFOR, 302<sub>ND</sub> MPAD

COMMANDER, 302ND MPAD

Capt. Dave Domingo EXECUTIVE OFFICER, 302 ND MPAD 1st Lt. Dave Williams

CAMP MONTEITH TEAM OIC

Master Sgt. Mark Van Leer

DETACHMENT SERGEANT

Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Sgt. Jim Blaine CAMP MONTEITH TEAM

NCOIC

Sgt. Keren Olson

Spc. Kate McIsaac

Spc. Patrick Rodriguez ASSISTANT EDITOR

Spc. Jasmine Chopra Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb Tony Velkoy

PRINT JOURNALISTS

Sqt. Lovedy Zie MEDIA OPERATIONS NCOIC

Spc. Lisa Forbes

Spc. Paul Dayes Spc. Sandra Mercado

BROADCAST JOURNALISTS Spc. Brandon Guevara

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST



#### **About Guardian East**

Guardian East is an official publication of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) whose intent is to provide command information to servicemembers.

Guardian East is produced by the 302nd Mobile Public Afairs Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve.

Contents of Guardian East are not necessarily official views, nor endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army or the 1st Infantry Division.

Guardian East is published weekly using offset press by the MNB(E) Public Affairs Office, Building 1320, Camp Bondsteel. Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340; send e-mail to guardianeast@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil. Printed Circulation: 3,000.

